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NLETS MESSAGE (ALL REGIONS)
7/2/01

MESSAGE FROM FBI COUNTERTERRORISM DIVISION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

[NATIONAL THREAT WARNING SYSTEM--POTENTIAL ANTI-U.S. TERRORIST ATTACKS].

THIS COMMUNICATION IS NOT AN FBI TERRORIST THREAT ALERT OR ADVISORY; IT IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

ALTHOUGH UNCLASSIFIED, THIS COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE HANDLED AS LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE. THIS COMMUNICATION SHOULD NOT BE FURNISHED TO THE MEDIA OR OTHER AGENCIES OUTSIDE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT/U.S. GOVERNMENT COUNTERTERRORISM COMMUNITY WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE FBI. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF FBI COMMUNICATIONS COULD JEOPARDIZE ONGOING FBI INVESTIGATIONS.

IN RECENT WEEKS, THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY {USIC} HAS BEEN TRACKING AN INCREASED VOLUME OF THREAT REPORTING EMANATING FROM GROUPS ALIGNED WITH OR SYMPATHETIC TO USAMA BIN LADEN. THE MAJORITY OF THIS REPORTING INDICATES A POTENTIAL FOR ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. TARGETS ABROAD. ON 6/22/01, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE {USDS} ISSUED A WORLDWIDE CAUTION WARNING AMERICANS TRAVELING ABROAD OF THE INCREASED RISK OF A TERRORIST ACTION FROM EXTREMIST GROUPS. THE USDS CAUTION EXTENDS THROUGH 9/22/01.

THE FBI HAS NO INFORMATION INDICATING A CREDIBLE THREAT OF TERRORIST ATTACK IN THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE HEIGHTENED LEVEL OF ANTI-U.S. THREAT REPORTING, THE RECENT LIFE SENTENCE HANDED DOWN FOR MOHAMMED RASHED DAOUD AL-OWHALI IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1998 U.S. EMBASSY BOMBINGS, THE CONVICTION OF AHMED RESSAM AND THE ONGOING TRIAL OF MOKHTAR HAOURI IN RELATION TO THE 1999 MILLENNIUM BOMB PLOT, AND THE INDICTMENTS RECENTLY FILED IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT AGAINST 14 INDIVIDUALS SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE 1996 BOMBING OF KHOBAR TOWERS, THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTACK IN THE UNITED STATES CANNOT NOT BE DISCOUNTED. THE APPROACHING INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY ON 7/4/01 MAY FURTHER HEIGHTEN THE POTENTIAL THREAT IN THE UNITED STATES AND AGAINST U.S. TARGETS ABROAD.

BECAUSE OF THESE FACTORS, RECIPIENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXERCISE EXTREME VIGILANCE. SHOULD RECIPIENTS RECEIVE OR DEVELOP ANY INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THIS MATTER THEY SHOULD CONTACT THEIR LOCAL FBI OFFICE OR FBI HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY.